

February 10, 2025

Senate Human Service Committee

Chairman Ruby and Committee Members,

My name is Tim Mathern, Senator from District 11. I am a cosponsor of HB 1108 and have a historical connection to the North Dakota Century Code noted here. Some 30 years ago Republican Senator Kevin Goodno of Minnesota and I of North Dakota submitted legislation in our states to permit easier transfer of behavioral health patients as we had such facilities in our bordering cities of Moorhead and Fargo. HB 1108 builds on that original legislation.

Overview of HB 1108

This bill proposes a change that is primarily noted on page 2 line 7, the change would permit the same cross border treatment options for people on probation or parole that is available for other citizens.

Why is this bill needed

The bill is needed in that our law enforcement and corrections communities have become very engaged in advocating that persons get treatment. We know now that simple punishment for offenses or showing up for check-ins without treatment only lands people back into prison.

The bill is also needed as our treatment facilities are not adequate but if we share facilities among our states more can get the treatment. On a pragmatic level, Moorhead offers medical detox not available in Fargo. Fargo offers hospitalization not available in Moorhead. There are similar situations around the entire border of our state.

Thirdly the bill has safeguards by requiring interstate agreements. The bill was drafted by Jonathon Alm of the NDDHHS. A similar bill has been introduced in the Minnesota legislature.

I ask you for a Do Pass recommendation on HB 1108.

Thank you.